



eurasiens (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), brevet européen (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), brevet OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— avant l'expiration du délai prévu pour la modification des revendications, sera republiée si des modifications sont requises

Publiée :

— avec rapport de recherche internationale

En ce qui concerne les codes à deux lettres et autres abréviations, se référer aux "Notes explicatives relatives aux codes et abréviations" figurant au début de chaque numéro ordinaire de la Gazette du PCT.

(57) Abrégé : Le dispositif décoratif (1) est constitué par une nappe-support (2) ayant une certaine souplesse, sur une face de laquelle sont déposées et fixées, suivant des zones (5) prédéfinies, des matières végétales ou minérales (4) de couleurs choisies, qui réalisent un motif prédéfini. Ces matières (4) peuvent être déposées en s'aidant d'un gabarit de moulage, pourvu d'ouvertures correspondant aux zones (5) précitées. Des parties en relief (3), laissées en place sur la nappe-support (2), entourent avantageusement les différentes plages colorées. Ce dispositif s'applique à l'aménagement urbain et paysager, ainsi qu'à la décoration "événementielle".

10/517278

DT09 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 DEC 2004

3/PRK

WO 03/106192

PCT/FR03/01743

Decorative device, in particular for urban development
and landscape arrangement

5 The present invention relates, in general terms, to the field of decorations which can be produced from vegetable or mineral materials. It refers more particularly, but not exclusively, to a decorative device which can be produced from such materials and
10 which contributes to urban development and landscape arrangement.

Even more particularly, the subject of this invention is a technical device intended for the permanent or
15 temporary decoration of lawns, clumps of trees, grassy areas and slopes, this device being capable of assuming any shapes and dimensions and of being installed on any type of ground, whether this be horizontal, inclined or voluminous.

20 The decoration of "green spaces" is conventionally carried out by the planting of flowers. These plantings have to be prepared and executed by specialized personnel, and, by their very nature, they have a
25 highly seasonal character.

30 The present invention is aimed at overcoming these disadvantages by providing a decorative device which is easy to implement and which can replace flower beds, especially in winter time. This device also makes it possible to produce an easily interchangeable "special event" decoration.

35 For this purpose, the subject of the invention is essentially a decorative device, in particular for urban development and landscape arrangement, which consists essentially of a supporting sheet having some flexibility, on at least one face of which are arranged

and secured, according to predefined zones, vegetable or mineral materials of selected colors which produce a predefined design or decoration.

5 The supporting sheet advantageously consists of a layer of textile material, of fibrous material or of synthetic material waste. This is, for example, a textile material of the cotton, flax or felt type, having the property of being permeable to rainwater or
10 trickling water.

As regards the colored materials deposited and secured on the supporting sheet, these may be particularly:

15 - in the case of vegetable materials: wood chips or bark fragments;
- in the case of mineral materials: grains of sand or gravel or else glass balls.

Advantageously, the supporting sheet comprises parts in relief which correspond to the predefined contours of the various zones in which said vegetable or mineral materials are deposited and secured, and which thus make it possible to delimit these zones clearly, at the same time forming kinds of "molds" intended to be
25 filled with the vegetable or mineral materials.

These vegetable or mineral materials may be painted or may receive a special surface treatment, making them, for example, fluorescent. If granular materials or
30 materials in the form of chips are concerned, these are adhesively bonded to the upper face of the supporting sheet. Preferably, a glue or a varnish is also applied to the outside of these vegetable or mineral materials, in order to bind these materials appropriately and to
35 protect them.

The subject of the invention is also an industrial process developed specially for the manufacture of the

decorative device defined above.

This process involves essentially cutting out a supporting sheet according to a predefined contour, 5 placing onto the cut-out supporting sheet a molding template provided with orifices corresponding to the predefined zones which are to receive vegetable or mineral materials, coating with glue the upper face of the supporting sheet in the various zones thus 10 delimited, and filling these zones by depositing said vegetable or mineral materials therein.

The molding template can form a "lost mold" which remains in place on the supporting sheet after the 15 securing of the vegetable or mineral materials, the said template, in particular, being adhesively bonded to this supporting sheet. Preferably, however, within the framework of "series" production, the molding template is not secured permanently to the supporting 20 sheet and may therefore be removed after the vegetable or mineral materials have been deposited and secured on the supporting sheet; this molding template thus becomes reusable for the manufacture of a new decorative device identical to the preceding one.

25 Advantageously, especially with regard to a reusable molding template, the process also involves, after the placing of the molding template onto the supporting sheet, the installation of frames, corresponding to the 30 contours of the various zones, in the orifices of this molding template, the vegetable or mineral materials being deposited inside these frames which themselves remain in place on the supporting sheet and thus form the parts in relief (mentioned above) which delimit the 35 various zones.

Overall, the decorative device which is the subject of the invention and with which this specific

manufacturing process is associated, possesses the following advantages:

- The device forms a decoration which is installed easily and quickly on any ground, the flexibility of 5 the supporting sheet allowing it to be adapted to the irregularities of the ground.
- By virtue of the flexibility of its supporting sheet and of its production from divided materials (chips or grains), the device can be folded or wound up 10 for its storage and transport with a reduced bulk.
- In particular, where use in winter is concerned, the decorative device can be manufactured or prepared at a sheltered location and then be easily and quickly 15 installed and secured to the ground at the selected site.
- This device makes it possible to produce decorations of any shapes and of any dimensions, if appropriate by juxtaposing two or more elementary devices which complete one another to form a final 20 decoration having large dimensions.
- The decorative device which is the subject of the invention is relatively resistant to atmospheric influences (wind, rain), while at the same time being capable of being produced from biodegradable materials 25 which make it "ecological" and eliminate any need for recycling.
- The parts in relief above the supporting sheet form borders for the various colored zones, thus ensuring the sharpness of the contours of these zones.
- In order to increase the visual impact of this 30 decorative device, it is possible to make it fluorescent, at least in some zones, or to incorporate in it a lighting system, in particular by means of optical fibers.
- This decorative device may also have a 35 recreational and educational appearance, being produced in smaller dimensions and being designed as a children's game involving manual activities.

- By virtue of its specific manufacturing process, the decorative device can be produced on an industrial scale, accurately and with a high degree of reproducibility.
- 5 - The creation and manufacture of this decorative device can be carried out with the aid of modern information technology methods: computer-assisted creation (CAC), computer-assisted design (CAD), cut-out on a computer-controlled automatic machine.
- 10 - Finally, this decorative device remains especially economical both in terms of its composition and in terms of its manufacturing process: on the one hand, it can be produced from materials of very low costs, such as textile or plastic waste, wood waste or sand, and, 15 on the other hand, its manufacture involves only a low outlay, especially with regard to the use of a recoverable and reusable molding template. It will also be noted that the manufacture of the device can be optimized, in terms of the quantity of material used, 20 by the suitable positioning of the various elements to be cut out from a basic sheet, for example by cutting out the smallest elements from the material surrounding by the largest elements.
- 25 The invention will be understood more clearly from the following description, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawing showing an embodiment of this decorative device by way of example and illustrating the process for the manufacture of this decorative device:
- 30

figure 1 is an overall perspective view of a decorative device according to the present invention;

35 figures 2 and 3 are highly diagrammatic perspective views illustrating successive steps in the manufacture of such a decorative device;

figure 4 is a partial section through the diagram of figure 3 along the line IV-IV;

5 figure 5 is a final view, similar to the preceding diagrams, showing the termination of the process, that is to say the decorative device in the definitive state.

10 The decorative device, shown in figure 1 and designated as a whole by the reference 1, is composed, in its definitive state, of a supporting sheet 2, of parts in relief 3 in the form of frames, carried by the upper face of the supporting sheet 2, and of vegetable or mineral materials 4 deposited and secured on the upper 15 face of the supporting sheet 2 in the various zones 5 delimited by the parts in relief 3.

20 The supporting sheet 2 consists of a layer of textile material, of fibrous material or of plastic waste, which is cut out according to a predefined contour 6.

25 The parts in relief 3, in the form of frames, can be produced from the same material as the supporting sheet 2. These parts in relief 3 are attached to the supporting sheet 2 and, in particular, adhesively bonded to this supporting sheet 2.

30 The various parts in relief 3 are virtually adjacent to one another; they correspond to the various colored areas of the design or decoration to be produced.

35 The vegetable or mineral materials 4 are, for example, painted wood chips or colored grains of sand. These materials fill the various zones 5 delimited by the parts in relief 3. Such vegetable or mineral materials 4, having the color corresponding to the predefined design or decoration, are deposited and secured in each zone 5 in as uniform a layer as possible.

By means of suitable glues and/or binders, the vegetable or mineral materials 4 are secured to the upper face of the supporting sheet 2 and also bound to 5 one another to form a coherent layer. A varnish covers these vegetable or mineral materials 4 on the outside. The whole of the decorative device 1 thus formed possesses some flexibility which allows it to be adapted to the irregularities of the ground on which it 10 is placed, and which also makes it possible for it to be wound up or folded for its transport.

Figures 2 to 5 illustrate the process for the manufacture of the decorative device 1 described above.

15 Initially, the supporting sheet 2 is cut out from the selected material according to the predefined contour 6 (see the bottom of figure 2).

20 A molding template 7 is also available, which possesses on the outside the same contour 8 as that 6 of the supporting sheet 2 and which is provided over its extent with a certain number of orifices 9 separated by more or less narrow strips of material 10. The various 25 orifices 9 of the molding template 7 correspond substantially to the future colored areas of the device 1.

30 Frames intended to form the future parts in relief 3 of the device 1 are likewise available. Each frame (also designated here by the reference 3) corresponds with its outer contour to one of the orifices 9 of the molding template 7.

35 With all these elements being available, the molding template 7 is placed onto the upper face of the supporting sheet 2, and the various frames 3 are also installed on this supporting sheet 2 in the

corresponding orifices 9 of the molding template 7 - see figures 3 and 4.

Subsequently, the upper face of the supporting sheet 2
5 is coated with glue in its parts which remain
uncovered, and the vegetable or mineral materials 4 are
fed into the zones 5 delimited by the various frames 3,
each zone 5 receiving a vegetable or mineral material 4
of the appropriate color which has been predefined -
10 see figure 3.

In detail, in this phase of the process, a first
partial layer of vegetable or mineral material 4 may be
scattered onto the glue-coated upper face of the
15 supporting sheet 2, and then the surface of the first
partial layer may be recoated with glue, before a
second partial layer and, if appropriate, additional
partial layers are deposited. The glue-coating
operations are carried out with the aid of a paint
20 brush or a sprayer. The surface of the last partial
layer is leveled, while at the same time all of the
laid layers of vegetable or mineral material 4 are
packed together. Finally, an outer layer of glue or of
specific varnish is applied to the outermost layer of
25 vegetable or mineral material 4.

The molding template 7 is then removed, whereas the
frames 3 remain in place on the supporting sheet 2, so
that the decorative device has its final appearance,
30 with its various colored areas being delimited by the
frames 3 left in place, which form parts in relief
surrounding the various colored areas - see figure 5.

In a variant of the process, the molding template 7 is
35 also left in place on the supporting sheet 2 in the
manner of a "lost mold".

There would be no departure from the scope of the

invention, as defined in the accompanying claims:

- if the device were produced from any suitable materials;
- if the device were given any outer dimensions and shapes;
- if the device were produced with any types of designs, whether figurative or not, and of greater or lesser complexity, the design possibly being partially or completely a brief text;
- 10 - if all accessories, such as means for anchoring to the ground, lighting system, etc., were provided on the device;
- if this decorative device were obtained by any process and any suitable techniques;
- 15 - if the device which is the subject of the invention were intended for all kinds of use: urban development and landscape arrangement, in particular of lawns, clumps of trees, slopes or traffic circles, but also "special event" decoration;
- 20 - if this decorative device were used, if appropriate, in a suspended position or as a vertical panel, and not placed flat on the ground;
- particularly with regard to this suspended use or use as a vertical panel, if the colored vegetable or mineral materials were deposited onto both faces of the supporting sheet.